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OXCART

EO 12958
3.3(b) (1)>25Yrs
EO 12958 6.2(c)

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

BYE 2330-66

Copy 2

18 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Director of Reconnaissance, CIA
SUBJECT: OXCART Status Report

Per your request attached is the OXCART Status Report
as of 15 March 1966. If further details are needed, we will provide
them upon request.

[Redacted]
JOHN PARANGOSKY
Acting Director of Special Activities

Attachment -
As Stated

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2007

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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OXCART Status Report

I. OXCART Performance

A. As of 15 March 1966, a total of 2748 hours has been logged by OXCART A-12 aircraft on 1838 flights. Of the totals, 1267 flights accumulating 1772 hours were with the twin J-58 engine propulsion installation.

B. The following milestones have been achieved as of 15 March 1966:

Total Flights 1838
Total Flight Hours 2748:36

Total J-58 Flights 1267
Total J-58 Flight Hours 1772:18

Maximum Mach 3.29
Maximum Altitude 90,000 Ft.

Longest Sustained Flight with
Two J-58 Engines 6:20 Hours

Longest Period of Sustained Flight
Above Mach 3.2 1:14 Hours

Total Time Above Mach 3.0 146:33 Hours

Pre-overseas Operational Validation:
Successfully completed in December 1965
Three aircraft have been identified for BLACK SHIELD

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C. Pre-overseas deployment validation/reliability flights, 97 in number, were conducted between mid-August and mid-December 1965 in the BLACK SHIELD configuration. The aircraft and systems have been successfully qualified for the operational mission.

D. Total A-12 aircraft inventory: Ten aircraft including one two-place trainer and two test aircraft.

II. OXCART Deployment Plan

A. The A-12 has been declared operationally ready and capable of performing photographic and ELINT reconnaissance in the Pacific Theater to include:

1. Major portions of the Chinese Mainland including all of South, East, Central and most of North China through the eastern tip of Mongolia through Manchuria to the Soviet Border.
2. North Korea
3. Indonesia
4. All of Southeast Asia

B. Operational missions can be conducted at altitudes of 76,000 feet and above at Mach 3.1 (1800 knots) speed. Range extension is accomplished utilizing aerial refuelings outside denied areas with specially configured KC-135 tankers of the Strategic Air Command. Elements of the 903rd ARS will be deployed to Kadena to provide this support. All missions are planned to launch from and recover at Kadena AB.

C. The program status provides for a Quick Reaction Capability (QRC) of 15-21 days from notification to readiness for flight of first mission from Kadena. Plans for deployment of necessary personnel (275 people), equipment and aircraft have been finalized and coordinated with ZI and overseas commands. Three A-12 aircraft will be deployed to Kadena AB utilizing aerial refueling and an intermediate stop at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

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D. Project operations and maintenance facilities at Kadena AB have been prepared to support the whole operation. Advanced echelon [redacted] is in place.

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